

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 02769 240948Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W

-----241025 024992 /15

R 240855Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6365

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2769

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: MINDANAO CEASEFIRE SITUATION (AND RADIO MALAYSIA COMMENT)

REF: MANILA 2453

1. INFORMATION AVAILABLE EMBASSY INDICATES THAT CEASEFIRE STILL GENERALLY HOLDING THROUGHOUT MUSLIM AREAS OF MINDANAO, ALTHOUGH WITH SOME VIOLATIONS. HOWEVER, SITUATION CONTINUING TENSE WITH MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS JOCKEYING FOR POSITION IN MIDST OF HIGH UNCERTAINTY REGARDING FORM THAT PROPOSED "AUTONOMOUS REGION" WILL TAKE. LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES TO REPORT (CONTRARY TO FACTS AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM) THAT TRIPOLI NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING WITHOUT MAJOR HITCH, AND THAT PLEBISCITE (NOW OFFICIALLY POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 17) WILL TAKE PLACE AS ANNOUNCED. THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS ARE INDICATIVE OF MALAISE BENEATH SURFACE.

2. SERIOUS AMBUSH OF BUS TOOK PLACE AT LUMATIL NORTH OF  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 02769 240948Z

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, SOUTH COTOBATO, ON FEBRUARY 16. ARMED MEN (PRESUMED MUSLIMS) ATTACKED BUS KILLING FIVE PASSENGERS, THEN HELD REMAINING PASSENGERS FOR 18 HOURS. DEAD INCLUDED WIFE OF MAYOR OF KIAMBA TOWN WHO OWNED BUS. MAYOR SUBSEQUENTLY LED PRELIMINARY ATTACK ON AMBUSHERS IN RETALIATION, BUT WAS REPULSED. ARMY THEN SENT IN TWO BATTALIONS AND AS OF FEBRUARY 22 SOME

HOSTILITIES CONTINUING IN VICINITY LUMATIL. LOCATION IS FEW KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF MAJOR U.S.-OWNED DOLE PINE-APPLE PLANTATION AT POLOMOLOC. GENERAL MANAGER OF PLANTATION (WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOVE) SAYS AREA IN QUESTION HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN FOCAL POINT OF REBEL ACTIVITY. INCIDENT REPORTED BRIEFLY IN TIMES JOURNAL ON FEBRUARY 24. ALTHOUGH MOTIVATION OF AMBUSHERS UNCLEAR, CONCLUSION IS INEVITABLY BEING DRAWN THAT EPISODE MAY RELATED TO PLEBISCITE, IN WHICH (IF IT TAKES PLACE) FUTURE OF SOUTH COTOBATO WILL BE MAJOR ISSUE.

3. ALSO INDICATIVE WERE RECENT REMARKS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNDERSEC SOCRATES DURING MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS ON FEBRUARY 22. SOCRATES REMARKED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO PALAWAN TO CONTINUE PREPARATIONS FOR PLEBISCITE AND COUNTERACT ALLEGED TAGALOG BROADCASTS ON RADIO MALAYSIA. ACCORDING SOCRATES THESE BROADCASTS ARE URGING PEOPLE IN PALAWAN AND ELSEWHERE TO VOTE "YES" ON PLEBISCITE WITH WARNING THAT IF THEY DID NOT DO SO, THEIR PROVINCES WOULD MISS OUT ON MASSIVE INFUSION OF LIBYAN AND OTHER MIDDLE EASTERN MONEY TO SUPPORT AUTONOMOUS REGION. SOCRATES ALSO REFERRED TO PROPAGANDA FROM SABAH URGING MINDANAO CHRISTIANS TO VOTE "YES" IN PLEBISCITE. (FEBRUARY 24 VALENCIA COLUMN OBSERVES THAT PHILIPPINE RADIO STATIONS USING ANTIQUATED EQUIPMENT ARE "DROWNED OUT BY RADIO PEKING, RADIO MALAYSIA, RADIO SABAH AND RADIO TAIPEI.")

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 02769 240948Z

4. COMMENT: THIS IS SECOND TIME IN RECENT WEEKS THAT WE HAVE NOTED GOP IRRITATION OVER RADIO MALAYSIA COMMENTARY ON MINDANAO DEVELOPMENTS. MALAYSIAN EMBOFF INFORMED US LAST JUNE THAT PM ONN AGREED AT ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING TO STOP MINDANAO-DIALECT RADIO MALAYSIA BROADCASTS WHICH HAD BEEN PRO-REBEL IN TONE. HOWEVER NO SUCH AGREEMENT APPARENTLY REACHED REGARDING TAGALOG OR ENGLISH TRANSMISSIONS. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE CONFIRMED VERSION OF RECENT BROADCASTS NOR IS IT CLEAR TO US WHY MALAYSIANS ARE RISHING REOPENING OLD WOUNDS IN THIS FASHION.

SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, ARMISTICE, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MANILA02769  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770064-0098  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MANILA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770213/aaaaalwt.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** f668c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 MANILA 2453  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3242302  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MINDANAO CEASEFIRE SITUATION (AND RADIO MALAYSIA COMMENT)  
**TAGS:** PINS, RP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f668c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009